

A STORY OF TWO VICTORIAN PERFIN COVERS

Larry Rausch

I purchased from a Canadian collector, Ronald Whyte, the two Penny Red covers with perfin stamps shown below in Figures 1 and 2. Both covers have a pair of 1d plate 189 and a ½d bantam plate 11, all stamps having perfin die H..B – H0380.02.

It is always interesting for me to do research on the internet for information about Postal History covers. They were mailed to Natick, Massachusetts USA from Liverpool, UK to Grandmother, Marinda Brown, and to her Granddaughter, Winifred Parlin, on the same day, April 24, 1878, in the care of Winifred's father and Marinda's son-in-law, William D. Parlin (see photo Figure 3). They were probably mailed to arrive around Winifred's 3rd birthday on May 11th.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

My research further indicated that William Parlin mustered in the "I" company Massachusetts 39th in the Civil War on July 22nd, 1862 as a Sergeant and was promoted to Captain of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) in 1863. He was wounded in two engagements, the Battle of Petersburg and in the Second Battle of Fair Oaks, and received a disability discharge on March 17th, 1865. William married Mary Marinda Brown on Feb. 9th, 1865 and they settled in Natick Mass. where Winifred was born on May 11th, 1875.



Figure 3
William D. Parlin

In future years, Winifred would marry U.S. Congressman, Charles Aubrey Eaton, on June 26, 1895. Congressman Eaton would participate in the creation of the United Nations.

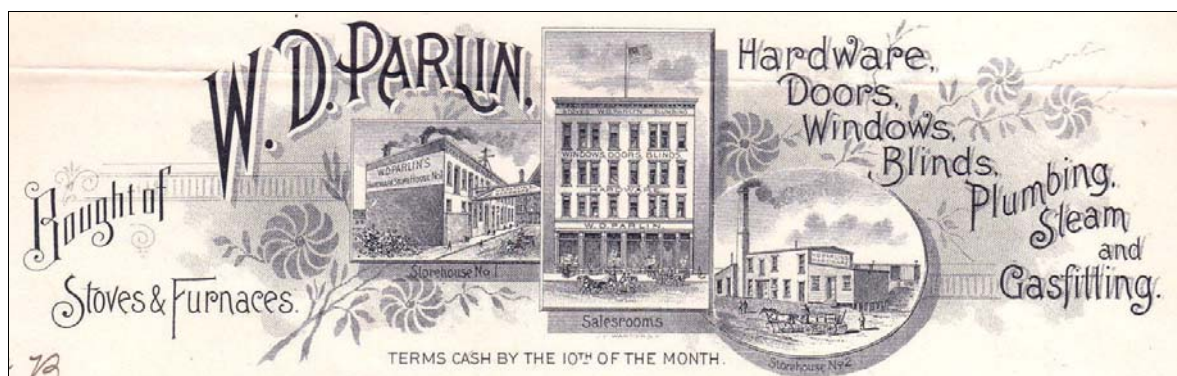


Figure 4

The letterhead shown in Figure 4 describes the business he developed as manufacturer and sales of hardware, plumbing, windows, and other supplies. Google search also found his involvement with the state of Massachusetts Hardware Association.



But back to the philatelic covers with those wonderful perfin. Both covers contain two Penny Red stamps (SG 43) and one ½d stamp (SG 48) and all stamps have the perfin H..B – H0380.02.

This perfin was made for the Henderson Brothers and their company Anchor Lines of London and Glasgow. The cover's reverse flap has the company's embossed logo as shown in Figure 5.

The company name was adopted in 1856 when a steam service between Glasgow and New York was inaugurated. The original owners were Nicol and Baird Handyside, a third partner Thomas Henderson joining in 1852. The Anchor Line moved into the Mediterranean trade on their own behalf after a period managing the ships of the Glasgow & Lisbon Steam Packet Company. In 1875 the company started a service to Bombay and in 1882 another to Calcutta. The latter route became solely concerned with cargo and was sold to the Brocklebank Line in 1912.



Figure 5



Figure 6

In 1899 the firm of Henderson Brothers was dissolved and a limited liability company formed with the title of Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers). The company was bought by Cunard in 1911. The company went into liquidation in 1935 the assets being transferred to a new company - Anchor Line (1935) Ltd. After 1953, Anchor Line became a fully-owned subsidiary of the United Molasses Company. It was sold to Walter Runciman & Co in 1965 and restructured in 1976.

The advertisement in Figure 6 details trips from Glasgow to New York which also provided a weekly US mail service.